Development of Himavad Gopalaswamy Hills in Karnataka

1489. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Karnataka has sent any -proposal to develop Himavad Gopalaswamy Hills in Chamarajanagar District, Karnataka, as a tourist centre;

(b) if so, the amount of Central assistance sought for; and

(c) whether Government will take steps to develop it as a tourist centre since the Himavad Gopalaswamy Hills is a very good tourist spot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURIST (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Development of tourism infrastructure in the country is a continuous process. The Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administration identifies places of tourist interest/ spots and provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized for the following schemes every year:

(a) Product Infrastructure and Destination Development

(2) Integrated development of Tourism Circuits

(3) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating projects

However, on receipt of the proposal complete in all respects, they are appraised for assistance keeping in view inter-se-priorities among projects, and availability of funds under the respective head.

Expansion of Tourism in Punjab

1490. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a considerable scope for expansion of tourism industry in Punjab;

(b) whether Centre has conducted any survey to explore the tourism in Punjab;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism had commissioned a 20 Year Perspective Plan for the State in order to:

(i) assess the existing tourism scenario in the State;

(ii) review the status of existing development/investment plans;

(iii) evaluate the existing potential tourist destinations;

(iv) develop sustainable tourism in a time period of 20 years;

(v) identify the existing as well as new tourism projects that have potential for development;

(vi) give plans with short term and long term targets;

(vii) indicate the likely investment on infrastructure development under different heads; and

(viii) prepare on action plan for implementation of identified potential schemes/projects and for development of infrastructure.

The Perspective Plan has, *inter-alia,* recommended development and promotion of tourism products in the State according to themes, with focus on Religious Tourism, Leisure Tourism, Culture and Heritage Tourism, Business Tourism, Highway Tourism, Rural Tourism, Nature Tourism, Eco-Tourism, Sports Tourism, etc.

As development and promotion of tourism in the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned, the Perspective Plan was sent to the State Government for preparation of their developmental plans accordingly.

(d) Does not arise.

Promotion of tourism in Rajasthan

†1491. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government provide assistance to different States for the development and promotion of tourism;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.